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■ CRIME: West Lincoln family sent to hospital as car sought for getaway

Pursuit suspects eyed for violent robberies

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

An unsuspecting West Lincoln family was sent to hospital early Monday after a suspect in a pursuit that involved a U.S. helicopter and several Ontario law-enforcement agencies barged through homes in order to seize another getaway vehicle.

That sums up a lengthy manhunt that began in west Pelham early Monday morning and which ended about 80 kilometres away on the Six Nations reserve in Brant County.

Two suspects are in custody and police are looking into allegations of recent violent armed robberies, including one at the end of December at the Target gas station in Pelham and an Esso in Thorold.

See ROBBERY on Page 2



DAN DAKIN/Tribune Staff

For the second time in just more than two weeks, robbers struck at the 24-hour Target gas station at 151 Hwy. 20 W. in Pelham. Police on Monday were expected to announce details of the case, including of a lengthy police pursuit that followed the robbery.

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UPFRONT

ROBBERY

Pursuit leads to arrest

From Page 1

Niagara Regional Police Const. Derek Watson said the chain of events started unfolding at about 1:38 a.m. when police spotted a stolen green GMC Suburban stolen from Brantford and travelling east on Hwy. 20 in Pelham just west of Hwy. 24.

Officers initiated a traffic stop, but the driver refused to pull over. He was pursued south onto Hwy. 24 then back to westbound Hwy. 20.

Watson said a second crime patrol unit was in the area — specifically assigned because of the robberies — and successfully deployed a spike belt on Twenty Rd. west of Regional Rd. 27.

With a least one punctured tire, the Suburban continued to a dead end on Old Galt Rd. near West Lincoln where two miles jumped out of the vehicle and ran into a wooded area in opposite directions.

Additional NRP units and the helicopter from the Buffalo, NY-based Erie County Sheriff's Department were called out to assist in maintaining a perimeter and



ONLINE EXTRA
See extended story online
www.pelhamnews.ca

tracking the suspects.

At 6 a.m. the NRP were called to the Pioneer gas bar at Hwy. 20 and 24. Watson said the driver of the suspect vehicle was arrested and derailed with incident.

In the hours following the initial chase, three homes were broken into in the area of Hwy. 20 in West Lincoln.

At the first home the suspect was confronted by the police and fled.

In the second home a mother, father and adult son were injured after being assaulted by the suspect. All three were taken to hospital with serious injuries, though none were considered life-threatening.

At the third home the suspect was inside a stolen GMC Matrix after an altercation with the homeowners. The car was tracked from the air by the sheriff's department helicopter and

pursued to the Brantford area. A suspect male was subsequently located in a home on Mohawk Rd. east of Townline and arrested by Six Nations Police. The suspect then turned over to Niagara police.

OPP and Six Nations police deferred all comment to the NRP.

Facing numerous charges in relation to this matter are Joshua Beaver, 24, of Hagersville and Nicholas Hill, 27, of Jarvis. Both remain custody.

There are no outstanding suspects.

An investigation continues with the assistance of Waterloo Regional Police Service, Hamilton Police Service and Six Nations Police.

Watson said a special NRP crime prevention patrol had responded to the Hwy. 20 corridor in response to recent robberies.

He said the suspects arrested Monday are "certainly under investigation" for recent violent robberies.

On Saturday, Dec. 28, the 24-hour Target gas station at 151 Hwy. 20, W. at Haislet St. in Pelham was robbed by two disguised men at about 5:40

a.m. One was armed with a handgun. The clerk was made to get on the ground, while the men stole cash and cigarettes.

Both robbers fled the store in a grey 2005 GMC Sierra pickup truck, believed to be a newly stolen from Hamilton. That truck was discovered in flames minutes later in a nearby residential neighbourhood.

The suspects were believed to have fled that residential area in a second stolen vehicle — a grey 2011 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck that had a Pelham firefighter sticker on a window.

One of the suspects was described by police at the time as possibly Native American. Both suspects in the Dec. 28 robbery were believed by police to reside in either Galt or Hamilton or Hagersville area.

A similar robbery took place on Friday, Jan. 3, at the Esso Station at 13210 Hwy. 20 in Thorold, where two masked men entered the store and ordered the clerk to give them all of the cash at about 12:05 a.m.

The female clerk was roughed up and received minor injuries.

1. Just after 1:30 a.m.

Monday, NRP spots a stolen truck at Hwy. 20 near Hwy. 24

2. NRP officer attempts to pull the truck over, but it heads south on Hwy. 24, turns around and then heads west on Hwy. 20.

3. Truck hits spike belt on Twenty Rd. near Regional Rd. 27

4. Vehicle comes to a dead end on Concession 4, two suspects exit truck and run

5. In the hours following initial chase, three homes broken

Both suspects fled in a black GMC Envoy stolen from north St. Catharines. It, too, was torched.

Waterloo Regional Police

CHAIN OF EVENTS

into in the area of Hwy. 20 in West Lincoln.

At second home, three people assaulted before suspects flee. At third home, suspect flees in stolen Toyota Matrix.

6. Erie County Sheriff's Office helicopter used to track Toyota into Brantford area. One suspect arrested by Six Nations Police at a home on Mohawk Rd. near Townline Rd.

7. Second suspect arrested at 6 a.m. Monday at gas station at Hwy. 20 and 24

are investigating a similar type robbery in Cambridge.

greg.jurinner@summitmedia.ca
Twitter: @GregAtTheTrib



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LOCAL NEWS

■ DOWN SYNDROME: March event to deal with chromosomal condition issues

'She's exactly how she's meant to be'

RAY SPITERI

QMI Agency Niagara

Shock and disbelief to pride and joy.

Those are just some of the emotions Jennifer Moordanian has felt as a Niagara mother of a five-year-old child with Down syndrome.

"At first you feel like the bottom has dropped out of your world," said Moordanian, who didn't know her daughter Emi had the condition until she was 13 weeks old.

"But you quickly come to realize that all it is a label. You wish you knew then what you know now."

"Yes she has an extra chromosome, but she's exactly how she's meant to be. It takes her longer to learn things — to walk and talk — but she does learn to do them."

"She has a wonderful personality. She is a perfect child."

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that can vary from person to person. It has no cure or treatment. About one in 800 babies are born with it.

There may be physical signs such as a differently shaped head and flattened nose. A child can face physical, mental and social development challenges.

But many with Down syndrome go to university and college and hold down jobs. They get married, and make vital community contributions.

Families in the same position as Moordanian will con-



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Jennifer Moordanian with her five-year-old daughter Emi Gamble. A kick-off to World Down syndrome day in March at the Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls.

verge in Niagara Falls from March 7-9 at Great Wolf Lodge, the International Down Syndrome Coalition holds a networking and get-together.

The three-day event is meant to be a kickoff to World Down Syndrome Day, which is also recognized by the

United Nations, March 21.

Last year, the worldwide coalition, based in the United States, held events at five Great Wolf Lodge locations throughout America.

This year, the group has expanded it to 11, including one in Canada (Niagara Falls).

Coalition founder Diane

Grover said on the first day, participants will take part in a meet and greet. On the second day, they will explore the water park and have a pizza party.

They will enjoy the park again on Sunday, as well as have the chance to see the

city.

She said last year, some locations attracted up to 200 people.

"Of families wanting to show that we're not all grieving all the time," said Grover.

"When a parent receives a diagnosis that their child has Down syndrome, very often

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Strong Year for Real Estate in Pelham

Our local housing market is entering into the new year in solid shape, with predictions of another positive year of growth on the horizon. Residential sales in Pelham reached 215, a healthy 2.87% increase over the total of 209 recorded in 2012. It is the surging average price growth in our community that is the number to watch in 2014.



CATHY
BERKHOUT-BOSSE

The 12-month average price in Pelham continues to rise at a steady pace – now standing at \$347,250 – up 8.4% from the figure of \$320,885 recorded at year-end 2012.

Conversely, the 12-month average price in Welland slipped marginally from \$186,205 in December 2013 to the 2013 year-end tally of \$185,620.

The preliminary year-end MLS® sales reports of the Niagara Association of REALTORS® indicate that sales across the Region City dropped 7.1% in 2013, while the total residential sales reported in Welland during the year compared to 738 transactions recorded in 2012.

Although the overall sales volume in Welland is lagging behind last year, listing inventory levels continue to trend down. The net effect of reduced supply is keeping the market in a tentative state of balance.

The average days on the market for homes sold in Welland shifted to 65 days an improvement over the previous 82 days. In Pelham it took an average 76 days to sell a home down from 88 days in 2012.

According to the RE/MAX Housing Market Outlook 2013 released in December new peaks in average price were realized in almost every one of the 26 major centres across the country examined in 2013, with the national average forecasted to appreciate 4% by year-end.

Next year national home sales are expected to climb another two per cent to 475,000 units while the value of an average Canadian home is predicted to jump another 3% to a national average price of \$390,000.

Cathy Berkhoult-Bosse, R.E.B., is a real estate broker at Rekell Welland Realty Ltd. living in Pelham. You may read past columns at <http://www.NiagaraRealtySourceReport.com>

COMMENT

Busy start to 2014 for library

FRAN GILES

Looking forward instead of back, there are all sorts of events for every age group planned for the next two months.

Starting with adults instead of children for a change, there are the usual drop-ins: Knitting Club (the former Knit Wits, the name of which was changed because of course none of our patrons are that), Fridays at 1 p.m. and Scrappy Drop-in Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Bring your knitting and the next game is on Saturdays starting at 12:30 p.m. Book Clubs are ongoing as is the monthly Hearing Clinic, the first of which takes place Jan. 27. Planned events: Financial Mythbusters on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. (Free, but please register ahead) and Crocheting for Knitters Jan. 15-4:30 p.m. a two-session class, Friday Jan. 17 and 24 \$15. (Pre-registration required.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO HYDRO CREWS

Allison Langley's Jan. 5 article "Niagara Hydro crews lend a hand" highlights the uniting dedication Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. crews demonstrated in order to safely restore power to the residents and businesses in Niagara and Milton.

On behalf of everyone in both regions, I would like to thank the NPEI crews who selflessly gave up time with their families so that others could embrace the holiday season.

While the days following the ice storm presented challenges for Ontarians, we also summoned goodwill and generosity amongst neighbours.

The NPEI crews worked around the clock in extreme weather conditions to safely restore power — first in their own community, then further afield. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication.

BONI CHIARELLI
ONTARIO MINISTER OF ENERGY

Finally, we are going to try the Overdrive and E-Books class again. We had arranged for the class to start in January but the first full week of January, but not enough people signed up, so we are trying it again on Jan. 22, 6 to 8 p.m. \$10. Limit of eight participants. Please register and pay ahead.

Just a heads-up about events happening early in February: Medication Workshop, Feb 4 at 8 to 8 p.m. (note time) \$3 and the Senior Valentine's Tea, Feb. 5 at 2 to 3 p.m. Free, but please register before Jan. 28. I would not want them to run out of few goodies.

Turning now to children, there are the usual weekly offerings starting the week of Jan. 13, namely Babies to Toddlers (newbies to 18 months) on Tuesdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m., \$18 for a series of five meetings. Time for Twos (20-36 months) on Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m. \$18 for the series and Ready, Set, Learn (3-6 yrs) on Thursdays at 1 p.m. \$20 Registration is open now.

After School is Cool (Grades 1 to 4) Tuesdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. is an opportunity to enhance your child's reading skills with the help of a teen buddy. Free, but please register ahead since we need to pair volunteers with readers. Playlough Club for two to six years takes place at Maple Acire Branch in Fenwick on Fridays at 10 a.m. \$2 per meeting attended. Just drop-in. And, last but not least, also at Maple Acire, is Cocoa Club, a book club for children in Grades 5 to 8. It meets at the Maple Acire once a month on the last Thursday, starting Jan. 30, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

As you have no doubt heard, our hours have been trimmed. The Fenwick Branch now opens at 10 a.m. Monday to Friday and at noon on Saturday. Hours of closing are still the same. Maple Acire Branch in Fenwick will only be open to the public on Mondays from 1 to 8 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

More next time. See you at the Library!

LIHN NEEDS MORE TRANSPARENCY

Reporter Marlene Bergman expresses how I felt when I attended LIHN meetings. They pretend to be informing the public, but it comes after the fact and when the decisions have already been made without any consultation from the paying public. They all have the evading tactics firmly in place so their decisions are written in stone without further discussion. To me, it seems to be a done deal, so I'm doing the public a favour by telling the truth. They are not giving us a reasonable report at a reasonable time so that we see where our hard-earned money is being spent and if the money is being allocated in a manner which benefits the communities involved? Why is the meeting on Jan. 16 private? Why can't Mr. She be privy to the report prior to the meeting?

ANNE KRANICKS
FORT ERIE

GIVE US YOUR VIEWS

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■ **CRIME:** Retired high school teacher John Horvath was murdered in his Welland home 15 years ago. Who did it?

Is a killer among us?

GREG FURNINGER
GM/Agency Niagara

John Horvath's killer is probably in his mid-30s to early 40s now. Could he be your friend or co-worker?

That's again, maybe he's left the area. Maybe he's dead.

What else remains unknown is his name.

Facts about the death of the retired E.L. Crossley Secondary School shop teacher, however, have remained certain over time.

It was 15 years ago, on Jan. 5, 1999 that the body of the 75-year-old was found at the bottom of the basement stairs of the red brick bungalow on Norway Ave. where Horvath had lived for about a half century.

He was lying in a pool of blood, and had been badly beaten.

Police believe he died on the afternoon or evening of Jan. 2, when he started at least one intruder.

Horvath had spent the Christmas holidays in Thunder Bay visiting his daughter, but



Investigators approach the Norway Ave. home of John Horvath, in this photo taken Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1999.

returned home a few days earlier than planned.

He died of a deliberate blow to the head that fractured his skull.

"It's still considered an active case for the Niagara Regional Police Service," said Staff Sgt. Dave Hunter, who heads the major crime unit.

"I don't like to call them 'cold cases' — that's the inference of a volcano that's dormant."

A detective is actively assigned to the homicide, although Hunter said little in the

way of information has come in recent years that could bring a killer to justice.

"We would welcome information — no matter how small it may be — in helping further our investigation," Hunter said.

But he knows that the years go on, "time dilutes memories." Possibly too, someone who may have known something that could have helped investigators might now be dead.

Still, police won't surrender to the passage of time. Why has the case not been

solved?

Police wish they had that magic answer.

"So much work and effort and time has been put in, and it was thought it was solved, but we couldn't get that one crack," said Donna Moody, who was the magic inspector heading the major crime unit at the time of the murder. For the past seven years, she has been director of Brock University campus security.

For Moody, the case has always been personal.

She was living just a few streets away from the crime scene. "As a young woman who started her policing career in Welland in 1974, there was a sense of obligation to her community that the case not go unsolved."

For Moody, the January snow that follows each Niagara season brings to mind Horvath's murderer.

"There were persons of interest that we investigated, but there was never enough evidence to narrow it down to one suspect," she recalled.

"It should have been easily solved, but for some unknown reason there wasn't that one piece. We tried so many avenues of investigation."

Reardon was offered, a one-minute Crime Stoppers of Niagara segment aired on a Hamilton TV news station in June 2000, and as DNA analysis techniques advanced there remained glimmers of hope.

An 11-page profile penned by the Ontario Provincial Police behavioural sciences section in Orillia, released to the media in

February 1999, painted a picture of a killer likely in his 20s, with a history of mental health issues and possibly a history of poor relationships and job performance. He was probably impulsive and self-centred, blaming others for his problems.

The person who killed John Horvath likely used alcohol or drugs, according to the profile, and that person may have left a physical evidence item.

It also is possible a second person aided in planning or committing the crime, something Niagara police first divulged 16 months after Horvath's death.

Police to this date have not said what weapon was used in killing and whether anyone was killed.

Both Hunter and Moody hope perhaps this reminder of a murder that shook Welland 15 years ago could help in some way lead to an arrest. Or to closing the books.

"It's still one (murder) that sticks in people's minds," said Moody.

"It's one that haunts us."

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Support Pelham Cares

Gala to raise money for new home

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Tribune Staff

The Home for Good Capital Campaign Committee will be hosting The Gala for Good, March 1, as part of the campaign to raise money for the permanent home for Pelham Cares.

Pelham Cares recently announced the purchase of a building for its permanent home, after 30 years of searching for a suitable, affordable option. On April 1, it

Funds have been raised since 2008, as a result of Project Pelham Cares, a committee formed to find a permanent home. While the work of that committee revealed potential sites, no suitable home was found, but the fundraising continued.

Now, the Home for Good Campaign is hosting the gala as a one-time final push for the raising of funds to offset the mortgage costs significantly while having con-

tingency funds for future necessities

The campaign goal has been set at \$500,000. More than \$160,000 has already been raised.

The gala will start at 6 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The evening will feature live entertainment from several Niagara-area musicians. There will be a dance, silent auction and

a few "surprises".
Tickets are \$125 and can be reserved in tables. To reserve tickets call the Pelham Cares office at 905-892-5300, or by email at info@pelhamcares.org. Tickets are also available from Tracy Holmwood at 905-688-9224, or tholmwood@miller-restoration.com.

The Gala for Good will be held at the Lookout Point Country Club on Tice Rd. in Fonthill.

melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @trihunemelissa

ECONOMY

Niagara jobless rate worst in Ontario

ALLAN BENNER
OMI Agency Niagara

కృష్ణాజీ నీపులు

WELLAND — At 8.8%, Niagara had the highest unemployment rate in Ontario in December.

Across the country, Niagara's unemployment numbers were exceeded only by Canada's Maritime provinces in the report released Friday by Statistics Canada. The unemployment rate climbed in Ontario to 7.5%, with 39,000 job losses reported across the province. About 46,000

Jobs were lost across Canada.

Cindy Forster said it's clear the provincial government has failed to bolster Ontario's economy.

"I think they failed abysmally," the New Democrat said in an interview Saturday.

And despite claims of job creation by the Liberal government, Forster said the emerging jobs are often part time and offer lower wages than the jobs being lost.

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RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Zumba Fitness @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday Jan 21 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Thursday Jan 23 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60.

Zumba Kids & Zumba Kids Jr. @ Pelham Arena

Turn up the music, wiggle, shake and have a blast with your friends in these rockin', high-energy fitness parties packed with specially choreographed kid-friendly routines.

Tuesday Jan 21 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm (4-7 yrs)
6:00 pm - 6:30pm (8+ yrs)

Drop in and try any session for \$4.50 at Pelham Town Hall.

For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact jcook@pelham.ca or call 905 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! – Jan 21 and Jan 23

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandsheff from 9:10-10 am. For more information, please contact jcook@pelham.ca or call 905 892-2607 ext. 329.

Arena Programs

Public Skating	Adult Public Skating	Adult/Preschool	Men's Shinny Hockey	Women's Shinny Hockey	Women's Learn to Play Hockey
Sunday Jan 19 1:00-2:20 pm	Thursday Jan 23 1:00 - 2:00 pm	Tuesday Jan 21 1:00 - 2:00 pm Friday Jan 24 10:00 - 11 am	Tuesday Jan 21 8:00 - 9:00 am Friday Jan 24 9:00 - 10:00 am	Monday Jan 20 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday Jan 23 10:30 - 11:30 am	Thursday Jan 23 9:30 - 10:30 am
Tuesday Jan 21 7:30-8:30 pm					
Friday Jan 24 8:00 - 9:30 pm					

"Get Active for Life" Join us at a park near you! Participation is at no charge, but we do require a registration form be submitted.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 - 11:00 am Peace Park (Nordic Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)
6:00 - 7:00 pm Cherry Ridge Park (Walking)	Peace Park (Walking)	Pelham Arena (Walking)	Woodstream Park (Walking)	

For more information, please visit pelham.ca, contact jcook@pelham.ca or call 905 892-2607 ext. 329.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Overdrive and E-Books - Learn step by step how to download and use the Pelham Public Library's Overdrive e-books. You must have basic computer skills, an email address and a Pelham Public Library card. Wed., Jan. 22 from 6-8. Cost is \$10.00 and payable at time of registration.

TOWN OF PELHAM MARCH BREAK CAMP



Pelham Camp

Get ready for another exciting year at Pelham's March Break Camp!

Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14, 2014

at the Pelham Arena, 1120 Halst Street, Fonthill

Open to children ages 4-12!

Registration for Pelham residents begins January 20, 2014.

Non-residents may register as of February 3, 2014.

Full details and registration forms will be available soon at www.pelham.ca and at Town Hall.

LOCAL NEWS

JOBS

Niagara has highest unemployment rate

From page 6

She said incentives should be reserved for employers that "invest in equipment, machinery and technology, and if they do that, create jobs in Ontario."

"Those kinds of tax credits need to be given to companies to keep good jobs here in Ontario, or to create new jobs," she said. "General corporate tax credits aren't working."

She said there should also be

more investment in universities and colleges, and in research and development.

Despite the dismal numbers, Niagara Workforce Planning and Development's David Alexander said people should instead be concerned about the participation rate — the percent of working-age people who are either working or actively looking for work.

"The focus of everyone's concern is typically on the unem-

ployment number. I think what we need to be concerned about is the participation rate, how many people overall are participating in the economy and actively looking for work," Alexander said.

In December, that number was 61.9% in Niagara.

Alexander said the statistics also highlight the importance of post-secondary education.

"We know that employers are looking for skilled people, not

only the applied skills needed in the workplace, but also the soft skills and the attitude to be part of a team," he said. "These are the people who are going to be the backbone of our individual should be to seek the training and develop the positive and determined outlook to become employed or keep your job."

Meanwhile, Alexander said people need to be prepared for a few career changes during

their lives.

"What we're finding is that people aren't just switching jobs many times in their career, but they're switching careers too," he said. "That's what's really driving our North American economy."

And rather than focus on current statistics, Alexander said he'd prefer to look ahead and determine ways of enhancing the economy in years to come.

"My preference is to be

focused on the long term and develop business and entrepreneurial skills within people."

He said the board would like to see better unemployment for Niagara in the future too, "but it's going to require a coordinated effort."

Alexander said more information about the latest statistics is available on the board's website: www.niagaraworkforce.ca and on Statistics Canada's website.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Many workers facing a retirement crunch: survey

DON FRASER

QMI Agency

Doug Rapelle counts himself as one of the secure seniors.

Raising four children with his wife meant not being able to seriously save for retirement until he was in his 50s. But a decent pension from his job with Niagara Region

meant his recent years have been comfortable.

"Having a livable income is important in retirement, if you're going to enjoy it," said Rapelle, 80, a Welland resident who has been working 16 years. "It's a major concern relating to quality of life when you get older."

Meridian Credit Union

released a retirement study Monday that raises alarm bells about the long-term financial security of Ontario residents. It said 40% of Ontarians are putting off saving for retirement, others are paying down their debts, and 21% have not yet started saving for retirement.

See SAVINGS on Page 9

Dr. Kimberly Dobson



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Findings from Meridian's Ontario Retirement Study, conducted by Harris/Decima

■ 21% of respondents said they had yet to start saving for retirement.

■ 52% said they were focused on paying off debt.

■ 51% said they couldn't afford it.

■ 49% indicated saving for

retirement is not a priority at the moment.

■ RRSPs (75%), pension

plans from work (58%) and

Tax Free Savings Accounts

(50%) are the most popular

retirement savings products

held by Ontarians.

■ 18% say they expect some sort of inheritance to help with their retirement needs.

■ Ontarians plan to retire when they are 62, while current retirees on average retired at 59.

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LOCAL NEWS

SENIORS

Time is best ally in planning for retirement

From Page 8

About half said saving for retirement is not a priority right now.

The surprising numbers come as issues of retirement security are at the forefront. Some pension plans that once seemed secure are struggling, and governments are increasingly employing measures to limit the availability for retirement savings.

Debate about increasing contributions to the federal Canada Pension Plan has also been rekindled.

With that in mind, Rupelle — former Niagara Region's social services and senior citizens' services director — well knows saving or contributing to a retirement fund isn't easy for some.

"It's fine to say to people that you must save more for retirement," said Rupelle. "But it's a big order when you have other responsibilities."

He points to another prob-

lem — many have also been employed in jobs without pension plan options, and that adds to concerns about financial security in retirement.

Some retired people with pensions that aren't indexed to cost of living are trying to live on the same amount of pension they started with decades ago.

One result of this is "a noticeable change in the number of older people working in fast-food outlets, big box stores, working as cross-

ing guards, which is for many a necessity to make ends meet," he said.

Acting Meridian CEO Bill Maurin offers blunt advice about saving for a decent retirement.

"Time is your best friend here," he said. "Time is (your) repayment is critical and something we all need to focus on."

Maurin said as in anything, a balanced approach is best.

"People need to look at their assets and liabilities and



Richard Brown
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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action.

"My husband (who died two years ago) always put in the maximum amount we were allowed, every year since RRSPs first started," said Van Helvert. "It always cuts down on your taxes."

"It's made me very independent now, in these years."

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manage both sides of that."

To that end, "take advantage of the savings and investment vehicles out there and identify one up with a systematic plan."

"Just getting started is what really helps you," Maurin said.

St. Catharines senior Kathleen Van Helvert only recently retired. Careful planning has also helped her financial situ-

POLITICS: 'City of Niagara' question shot down quickly

Committee nixes election referendums

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

It doesn't look like Niagara will be asked referendum questions on amalgamation and regional transit after all.

At its meeting Dec. 12, regional council voted to have two referendum questions added to the Oct. 27, 2014, municipal ballot: "Should Niagara Region fund a region-wide transit service?" and, "Should the 12 municipalities of Niagara amalgamate to form a new 'City of Niagara'?"

But following a staff report presented Wednesday to the region's integrated community planning committee, the recommendation now is that council nix the idea of putting the two questions to voters.

First off, councillors were told they could not unilaterally pose the amalgamation question on the ballot.

The report, prepared by region clerk Janet Pilon, said "the issue of amalgamation is not within the jurisdiction of any regional municipality and therefore not permitted to appear on municipal elections ballots."

Patrick Robson, the region's commissioner of integrated planning and community planning, told councillors that while municipal restructuring was not within their purview, they could approach the minister of municipal affairs and housing with a request to order the Region to put the amalgamation question on the ballot.

"What the report says to you, is you could approach the minister to have that action taken or there may be another avenue by which you could try to gauge public interest."

As for the question of a regional transit service, councillors were told a rewarded ballot question could be asked: "Are you in favour of the creation of the Regional Municipality of Niagara passing the necessary resolutions and bylaws to fund a region-wide transit service?"

The report from Pilon noted the refer-

endum would be considered binding if at least 50% of all eligible voters vote on the question and if more than 50% of the votes are in favour."

The report said a public meeting must be held, in accordance with legislation, prior to a council-of-the-whole vote and recommended that meeting be held Feb. 6.

The issue became a moot point, however, after committee members voted 10-5 to recommend council not move forward on the regional transit referendum issue.

Regional Chair Gar Barroughs was dubious as to whether voters would be properly informed on the regional transit subject.

"I just don't think we're ever going to get the right information to the public to make an informed decision," he said.

Pelham Coun. Brian Bayt and St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan were concerned about the cost of a referendum.

McMullan said the cost could run as high as \$75,000 "for a question that poorly formed doesn't possibly capture all you need to capture in a resolution."

After a three-hour discussion was dealt with, St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski attempted to once again get the amalgamation question on the ballot.

Petrowski made a motion that Niagara Region ask the minister of municipal affairs and housing to order "the Regional Municipality of Niagara to place the question: 'Are you in favour of the 12 municipalities of Niagara and Niagara Region amalgamating to form a new 'City of Niagara'?"

The motion was quickly voted on and defeated 8-5.

The recommendations from the committee will now go before council at its meeting Jan. 16.

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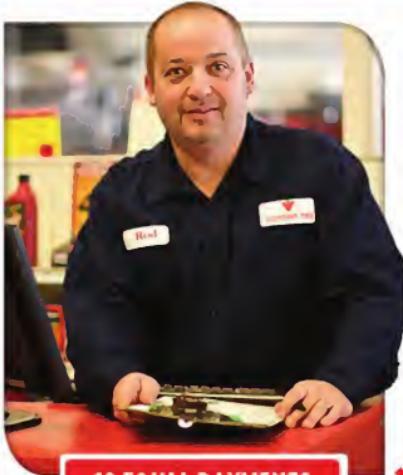
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Drive Away in a New Vehicle

Rose City Chrysler's bright, enormous new showroom features floor-to-ceiling windows – the perfect place to showcase this year's exciting new vehicles! Come to the Niagara Street dealership's Grand Opening Open House on Saturday, Jan. 18 and see the sleek and sporty 2014 Dodge Dart, which shares its Italian heritage with the Alfa Romeo Giulietta. Check out Chrysler's award-winning line of Ram pickup trucks and Dodge Caravan minivans, or the exciting new 2014 Jeep Cherokee, which is setting the mid-sized SUV market on fire!

In addition to having both the Ram and the Grand Caravan among the top 10 nameplates sold in Canada, "The Journey also remained the number one selling crossover in 2013," says Nick St. John, Dodge Principal at Rose City Chrysler. "This year, Chrysler becomes the only manufacturer of a light-duty truck with a diesel engine and plans to enter the mid-size car market with an all-new model to replace the Chrysler 200. It's all European technology and quality, which we could never offer before, and we now have all that PLUS the new Fiat Studio" at the new Niagara Street location in Welland.

The welcome Fiat addition makes Rose City Chrysler one of only about 25 select Chrysler dealers in Ontario to handle the Fiat brand. Car enthusiasts already know that as of January 20, 2014 Fiat will officially assume 100 per cent control of the Chrysler Corporation, Sebastian says.

"It's a match made in heaven," he adds. "We gave Fiat larger cars and trucks and they gave us small car technology, high-powered and fuel-efficient gas motors, along with 9-speed transmissions and a light-duty truck and SUV diesel engine."

Chrysler has done exceptionally well in Canada with 49 consecutive months of year-over-year growth in sales, and now has a strong hold on the "Number 2" spot in Canada, just behind Ford. In addition, Chrysler is the only one of the "Big 3" that grew in market share last year. "As for us, it's been solid and steady growth for seven consecutive years here at Rose City."

Tour, free barbecue and air bag demonstration

On Sat. Jan. 18, everyone is invited to enjoy a free barbecue lunch and take a tour of the new showroom and improved service area, which is warm and easier to access. Make yourself at home and relax in Rose City's "Chrysler Lounge," a comfortable new waiting room equipped with a big-screen TV, where hot coffee is always readily available.

"Take advantage of our special sales event during the grand opening," says Nick, "or just come to say hello and fill out a ballot to win a brand new Fiat."

In response to customers' concerns about the deployment of air bags, Chrysler Service staff will perform actual air bag deployment demonstrations to show what really happens when air bags ignite.

Partners Share Passion for the Road

An avid car and motorcycle enthusiast, Nick's passion for freedom on the road is contagious; a love he shares with his customers.

"I've been a car guy since I was old enough to talk," he explains. "I knew every car and motorcycle on the road. I built models; I read magazines. As I got older, my buddy and I used to work on our cars and we turned that hobby into a business. I started buying and selling cars that needed work and eventually I ended up in the car business."

Nick's automotive career began 31 years ago at a small AMC Jeep Renault dealership in Hamilton, where he worked his way up to manager. On a corporate reward trip, Nick met the AMC dealer from St. Catharines.

"He offered me a job at his store back in the mid '80s and there I've been in the Niagara area ever since."

Sebastian partnered with the Johnson Auto Group from his hometown in Hamilton. Bill Johnson is a fourth-generation

Chrysler dealer and has been in the business for 60 years. In May of 2006, the two partners took over the Chrysler dealership formerly known as Prince Charles Drive and retained most of the same sales and service staff. "We've added a number of employees over the last seven years, says Nick, but notes that the move has provided an extra special boost in morale for the original employees.

"They now have the beautiful dealership home and work environment they deserve for their efforts and loyalty!" When the new Niagara Street location became available at the end of 2011, plans went into place, Nick recalls, "and we had our official groundbreaking in September, 2012. By February of 2013, construction of the building itself was underway and finally on October 21, 2013 we officially opened for business."

"Right from the get-go, we saw an increase in traffic and in our showroom and service departments. We're already 20 per cent higher than last year at the same time," Nick says, a statistic which bodes well for the typical spring sales season ahead, "and we are really optimistic about 2014."

Approaching its 8th anniversary as a dealership in Welland, with a staff complement of 29, Nick foresees a very bright future for both employees and customers at Rose City Chrysler.

"Hopefully, we will be able to expand our staff even more," he projects.

"Our first priority is to take care of our customers and to place special focus on our local market. We want to be the go-to place for Chrysler products in the region."

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2012 Honda Civic LX



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2013 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT-4X4



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LOCAL NEWS

■ RAIDS

Two of the accused in Project Resurgence serving jail

From Page 16

Police began investigating activities of the Outlaws and Black Pistons motorcycle gangs in early 2013. Their investigation uncovered evidence of narcotics trafficking, including heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

Federal prosecutor Tanit Gilliam told the court Thursday that as part of the project, police obtained a wiretap for a phone.

Text messages and calls were intercepted on the number that involved O'Quinn speaking about marijuana.

In one text message conversation in July, O'Quinn is told by a man to "Get me as much as you can."

O'Quinn replies talking about his timeline. He later says, "It looks really good. Has a nice entry smell to it."

Another text message conversation in September deals with prices for two different grades of marijuana.

At one point, O'Quinn is told by a man that he's "still high" and "don't be a junkie." O'Quinn responds telling the

man not to worry because the "money is my drug."

O'Quinn's lawyer, Jason Little, said his client has had an addiction problem since he was 14 years old in Grade 9. He asked that O'Quinn serve his sentence at a facility where he can get treatment.

O'Quinn declined to speak to the court.

Nadel said there may be a great deal of money to be made in the drug trade but it's at great risk of loss of liberty.

In addition to the sentence, O'Quinn is prohibited for life from owning weapons.

Another 29 people were charged in Project Resurgence but are still before the court.

Samuel, Randy McLean, 42 and Isaac Lucas, 36, made a brief appearance in the same courtroom Thursday. The St. Catharines men will return to court by video on Jan. 16.

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PELHAM DATEBOOK

JANUARY 17

CROCHETING FOR KNITTERS

This course is for knitters who would like to learn enough crochet to create edging or add crocheted flowers and other embellishments to a knitted item. Taking place at



Pelham Public Library, 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., this course costs \$15. Please register ahead.

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p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$6. Takeout and cash bar available.

Church St. Fenwick, Fenwick Lioness Soup and bread lunch, including a selection of homemade soups and a variety of breads, dessert, coffee and tea. \$7 per person.

PBA GENERAL MEETING

The Pelham Business Association will be holding its general meeting, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Keith's Restaurant. The meeting will be on marketing presentation for 2014's campaign.

JANUARY 19

SOUPS ON

at Fonthill Lions Club 999,

Photo Contest

*My Home
Pelham*

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JANUARY 22

OVERDRIVE AND E-BOOKS

Learn step by step how to download and use Pelham Public Library's Overdrive e-books. You must have basic computer skills, an e-mail address and a Pelham Public Library card. Time 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; \$10 payable at time of registration.

JANUARY 21

Continued on Page 22



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PELHAM DATEBOOK

From Page 20

JANUARY 23

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

open house, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Wainfleet Arena's lower community room. See how impromptu and prepared speeches in a fun and supportive atmosphere can improve the confidence, communication and leadership skills of anyone 18 and up. For more information, call 289-695-3167 or visit wainfleet.toastmastersclubs.org.

LEGO

at Wainfleet Township Public Library 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages are drop-in during this time to build a Lego or Duplo creation. Please do not bring your own Lego.

JANUARY 25

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE

hosted by Fonthill Lioness at

the Fonthill Lions Hall, Hwy. 20, 7 p.m. Prizes, light food, cash bar, \$5 a person.

ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY TO HELP

hosted by the Pelham Historical Society. The PHS meets monthly for presentations on local history or significant events. Monthly cost is \$5 to \$10 a year, but all meetings are open to the public. Refreshments served. Woman's Journey to Help by Rose Dzuzan will be at Lookout Ridge Retirement from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

JANUARY 27

HEARING CLINIC

Connect Hearing will be at Pelham Library 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. giving free hearing screenings and answering any questions. Free but please schedule your appointment ahead: 905-892-6068. Also on Feb. 24, both days 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL

Society meeting at the Fonthill library, 7:30 p.m. All welcome to come and hear Wolfe Bonham of Peace, Love and Landscaping talk about "Garden Design - Overcoming Landscaping Problems & Mistakes."

JANUARY 30

GNOCCHI DINNER

from the Casa Dante back door, 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or until food lasts. Dinners are \$10. Takeout only. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout.

FEBRUARY 3

WINDOWS 8.1 INTRODUCTION

Marc Mailhot, Pelham Public Library's Gadget Guy will present information on WIN8.1

and will be available while you practice your new-acquired skills. No need to bring your own laptop or device with a WIN8.1 operating system. Time 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. cost \$10 payable at time of registration.

FLOSSIE COMES TO FENWICK

to predict the end of winter. Each year on the first day local elementary students are invited to Centennial Park to Flossie's den. Free hot chocolate and cookies to those who attend. Prizes for the colouring contest will be handed out. Sponsored by the Fabulous Fenwick Lions. Event starts at 10 a.m.

FEBRUARY 8

LADIES' DAY 2014

Ladies' Day 2014 (women helping women), from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. David's Anglican Church, 369 Thord Rd. Entertainment, pampering

services, silent auction, vendors, tea and cake, door prizes, raffle \$10 and includes tea/coffee and baked goods. Tickets at the door or in advance by calling 905-734-4627.

FEBRUARY 11

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Niagara Women's Connection, a non-denominational Christian women's group invites you to their afternoon luncheon, inspiration and fun, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Guest speaker Helen Norris has one of the most inspirational stories of God's love and you won't want to miss what she has to share. We will be serving coffee, tea and special treats as well as door prizes galore, all for \$7. Bring a friend, or a partner of change. This month's event is being held at Kirk on the Hill, 1344 Haist St., Pelham. RSVP: Margaret Quenselle at 905-788-9641 or e-mail mrs.q@live.ca.

FEBRUARY 22

FENWICK LIONS RIBEST

at the Fenwick Lions Club, all you can eat! Adults \$20, children 12 and under \$11. For tickets call Lion Albert at 905-892-4143.

ONGOING

PELHAM DOG PARK BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Bottle fundraiser will continue until Feb. 28. Bottles can be dropped off at 37 Pancake Lane, Fenwick, or for pick up call 905-892-4567 or email info@pelhamdogparks.com

NIAGARA BONSAI SOCIETY

meets on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 40 Bryn St. (across from Simcoe Park), Niagara-on-the-Lake. All are welcome. For further information contact niagarabonsai@gmail.ca.

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conditions, experience
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pruning, tying, wiring,
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up to date, day & week
needed, experienced
must be prepared to
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